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# NEWS

Release Number: 99-022

19 April, 1999

## **Petty Officer 1st Class Brian DeRitter Awarded a Navy Commendation Medal for Nomination as CNET Shore Sailor of the Year**

PENSACOLA, Fla.—Petty Officer 1st Class Brian DeRitter, a native of Portsmouth, Va., received the Navy Commendation medal for selection as one of seven Sailors nominated for the CNET Shore Sailor of the Year.

The Sailor of the Year program recognizes the best all-around Sailors in paygrades E-6 and below. The nominees demonstrate sustained superior performance in leadership, technical proficiency, motivation, participation in community affairs, and other noteworthy achievements.

Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Brian Lee DeRitter, an Aviation Structural Mechanic (Air Warfare) representing the Chief of Naval Air Training, is the Quality Assurance Leading Petty Officer at the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron (Blue Angels), Pensacola, Fla. A native of Portsmouth, Va., DeRitter joined the Navy in August 1985. In addition to being selected as the Sailor of the Quarter for the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, he was the 1991 Top-Gun Sailor of the Year. DeRitter was involved in the implementation of the latest change to the Naval Aviation Maintenance Program inspection checklist. He also traveled to fifteen show sites across the country, and was deployed for 130 days, including an intensive winter training period at Naval Air Facility, El Centro, Calif. He volunteers his free time as a Blue Angel guest speaker at numerous schools and hospitals across the country, supporting a “Drug Free” community. He has also been a bi-annual blood donor for the American Red Cross since January 1994.

For more information regarding the CNET Shore Sailor of the Year, please contact Michele Harrison at the Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET) Public Affairs Office at (850) 452-4859/4858.